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# Topographical Description OF *GLOUCESTER-SHIRE.*

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CONTAINING,  
A Compendious ACCOUNT

OF

Its Dimensions, Bounds, Air, Soil, and Commodities;

Its Towns and Villages, with their Churches, Schools, Hospitals, Markets, and Fairs;

Its Rivers and Castles, Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats, *Roman* Camps, Coins, and Stations:

With a short History of its Religious Houses, describing their Order, Founders, Dedication, the Time of their Foundation, and Yearly Revenues.



MVSEVM  
BRITAN  
NICVM

Printed in the Year 1712.

To the Inhabitants of the County  
of  
GLOUCESTER.

Gentlemen, &c.

I hope You will believe me, when I assure You that nothing, but a real Desire to serve You, could have put me upon offering this little Piece to publick View. Your Approbation is all the Recompence I desire, and I shall rest Satisfied, if what has been my Recreation for some Days, can furnish You with any tolerable Entertainment for half an Hour. I need not tell You Who I am, for if You like what You have bought, I have what I Desire without it; if not, 'tis my Interest, that You should not know whom to blame. Most of the following Relations are built upon the Authority of Camden, Speed, Dugdale, and other later Authors of unquestionable Credit; so that if they have led me into Errors, let them have their share of the Censure. And as for such Unaccuracies in the Composure, as may stand in need of an Apology, I would willingly perswade my self, Your Good-Nature will easily Excuse them. I should scarce have given You the Trouble of this Address, but that 'tis neither usual nor handsome to leap immediately from the Title-Page to the Matter; and considering that You are going to be my Judges, I thought it best to bespeak Your Favour. And if by this Performance I do not forfeit Your Good Opinion, You may expect something else from

Your very humble and

[REDACTED] Obedient Servt, &c.

## Topographical Description

OF

# GLOCESTER-SHIRE.

**G**Loucester-shire is in Gloucester Diocese, 60 Miles in Length, 26 in Breadth, and 190 in Circumference, containing about 800 000 Acres. The Air is Sweet and Healthy, the Soil Rich and Fruitful, especially the middle part of the County, where it sinks into a Vale, and spreads it self into a fertile Plain. It is Water'd by the Rivers, Severn, Wye, Leden, Stroud, Churn, Colne, Windrush, Thames, Frome, and Avon. Its chief Commodities are Corn, Wooll, Cloth, Iron, Timber, Bacon, Cheese, Cyder, and Salmon. It is divided into 29 Hundreds, which contain 280 Parishes, and 26 Market-Towns. It hath 8 Representatives in Parliament, viz. 2 for the County, 2 for the City of Gloucester, 2 for the Borough of Cirencester, and 2 for the Borough of Tewksbury. It lies bounded by Worcester- and Warwick-shire on the North, Oxford- and Wilt-shire on the East, Hereford- and Monmouth-shire on the West, and Somerset- and Wilt-shire on the South.

THE more Western Part of this County beyond the Severn is shaded with Woods, and is at this Day call'd Dean-forest, 20 Miles Long, 10 Broad, and containing above 30 000 Acres. The Soil is a deep Clay, fit for the growth of Oak. Its Hills are full of Iron-Ore, which they work here with Forges, till by the Violence of Fire it becomes Fluid. In this Forest, upon the River Severn, stand the ancient Villages Tidenham, and Wollaston a Seat of the Duke of Beaufort's, with Lydney the Seat of the Winter's; But of most ancient Note is Antoninus's Abone, now dwindled into a small Village, and call'd Alvington, having nothing besides its Antiquity to recommend it to our Observation. Not far from the River Wye, which parts this County from Monmouth-shire, stand the

the Ruinous Remains of St. Briavel's Castle, now the Earl of Berkley's; and a little higher is Newland, a large Parish standing in a pleasant Plain, where are vast Mine-Pits of 60 or 70 Foot deep; and an Alms-House for 16 poor Men and Women, erected by Mr. Jones a Hamburgh Merchant: Here are also no less than 6 Charity Schools for the teaching of 80 poor Children. Crossing the Country from hence to the North-East, we meet with Westbury, a very large Parish, reputed above 20 Miles in Circumference; and Flaxley, where was formerly an Abby of Cistercian Monks, built in the Reign of K. Stephen by Roger Earl of Hereford, the annual Revenues whereof at the Suppression were worth 112*l.* 13*s.* and 1*d.* Here is nothing else that deserves our Notice in this Woody Country besides NEWNHAM and DEAN, Two pretty Market-Towns, and NEWENT on the Edge of the County, having 2 Charity Schools for 50 Boys and Girls. This Mannor of Newent was given by K. Henry I. to the Abby of Cormeiles in Normandy, and so became an Alien Priory to that Monastery, 'till K. Henry IV. gave it to the Collegiate Church at Fodringhey in Northampton-shire.

OUR next Guide is the River Sabrina, or Severn, which rising out of Plinlymon Hill in Montgomery-shire, waters Shropshire and Worcester-shire, and runs in this County above 40 Miles by Land; 'tis in some places 2 or 3 Miles over, and yet the Tide flows the whole Breadth of the Current as high as Tewksbury. It is remarkable, that the Tides one Year are largest at Full-Moon, the next at the Change, and that one Year the Night-Tides are largest, the other the Day-Tides.

THE SEVERN, which for a Broad Channel, Swift Stream, and Excellent Fish, is inferiour to no River in England, at its first Entrance into this Shire receives the Avon, and the Swilyate, between which is seated TEWKSURY, a large and fair Town on the Confines of Worcester-shire, noted for the Woollen Manufactory, and Mustard-Balls, famous also for the Battle fought here, An. 1471. so fatal to the Lancastrian Family, by the Death of Prince Edward, only Son to Henry VI. This Town had its Name from one Theocus, who here led the Life of a Hermite, whence in some ancient Records we find it written Theokesbury. It was once beautified with a stately Abby, little of which is remaining, saving the Church, which is now Parochial, and had once a fair Spire upon it. The Abby was first built by Oddo Duke of Mercia, A.D. 715. for Benedictine Monks, and was restored by R. Fitz-Haimon, A.D. 1102. By the pious Munificence of whom, and several other Benefactors, its Yearly Revenues were worth at

# GLOCESTER-SHIRE.

at the Dissolution 1598*l.* 1*s.* and 3*d.* Hence we go down the Stream to *Deorhirst*, whose little Monastery was destroyed by the *Danes*, and see on both sides the River Two fine Seats, *Norton*, the Lord Viscount *Say* and *Seal's*, and *Corse-Court* the Earl of *Coventry's*.

*Mons.  
Angl.*

AND now the *Severn*, after various Windings and Turnings, parts it self to make the Island *Alney*, famous for the Duel fought there between K. *Edmund*, and *Canute the Dane*, A. D. 1016. who, after a long and doubtful Fight, agreed to divide the Kingdom between them; and then it hastens to the chief City of the County, GLOCESTER, the *Glevum of Antoninus*. This City was built by the *Romans* on purpose to be a Curb to the *Silures*, who inhabited *Hereford*-and *Monmouth-shires*, and a Colony was placed here call'd, *Colonia Glevum*, as appears from an Inscription yet to be seen *Comd.* in *Bath Walls* near the North-Gate,

## DEC. COLONIÆ GLEV. VIXIT ANN. LXXXVI.

It lies extended upon the *Severn*, over which it has a fair Stone-Bridge, and is beautified with many handsome well-built Streets. Before the Siege of this City in 1643, it was adorn'd with 11 Parish-Churches, but 5 of them were then demolish'd. On the South-side of the Town was once a Castle, built in the time of *William the Conqueror*, now the Common-Goal for Debtors and Felons. *Ofrick King of the Northumbrians*, by the Permission of *Ethelred*, King of the *Mercians*, to whom He was then a Tributary Prince, founded here a great and stately Nunnery, A. D. 682, over which Three *Mercian Queens* successively Presided; and *Edelfeda*, Sister to King *Edward the Elder*, adorn'd it with a noble Church, in which her self lies Entomb'd. But these being destroyed by the *Danes*, part of the Lands belonging to the Monastery were enjoy'd by Secular Priests 'till A. D. 1058. at which time *Aldred*, Bishop of *Worcester*, erected a new one for *Benedictine Monks*, which is the present Cathedral, and was endowed at the Dissolution with 194*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* per Annum. King *Henry VIII.* appropriated these Revenues to the Maintenance of a Bishop, a Dean, and Six Prebendaries. The Cathedral is now a Noble and Magnificent Structure, being much Improved and Enlarg'd in succeeding Ages; for *Ralph Willington* added to it the *Virgin Mary's Chapel*; *Nicholas Morwent* built the West Front from the Ground; *Tho. Horton Abbot* join'd to it the Northern Cross-Isle; *Abbot Frowcester* built the curious neat Cloysters, and *Abbot Seabrook* the great and stately Tower, a Work so curious, that seve-

*Dugd.*

several Travellers have affirm'd it to be one of the best Pièces of Architecture in England. The South-Ille was rebuilt with the Offerings that devout People made at the Shrine of King Edward II. who lies here interr'd in an Alabaster Tomb. Among its other Rarities, beyond the Quire, in an Arch of the Church, there is a Wall in the form of a Semi-Circle, with Corners accidentally so form'd, that if any one Whisper very low at one end, and another lay his Ear to the other end, He may easily hear each distinct Syllable. There is great Provision for the Poor by Hospitals in this City, particularly Bartholomew's Hospital maintains 54 poor Men and Women, to whom there belongs a Minister, Physician, and Surgeon. And Sir Tho. Rich, a Native of this Place, gave £6000. by Will for a Blew-Coat-Hospital, wherein are Educated 20 Boys, 10 poor Men, and as many poor Women maintain'd, all Cloath'd Annually. Here was a Charity-School lately opened, and Subscriptions made sufficient for the support of 70 Children, with a handsom Allowance for the Master and Mistress. The Walls of this City were demolish'd by Order of King Charles II. because the Inhabitants had shut the Gates against his Father King Charles I. A.D. 1643. It was dignified with an Episcopal See by King Henry VIII. A.D. 1541. The Bishoprick was taken out of Worcester Diocese, and contains only Gloucester-shire, and is Valued in the Queen's Books at 315l. 7s. 2d. per Annum. It is govern'd by a Mayor, 2 Sheriffs, 12 Aldermen, a Recorder, and other inferiour Officers; and lies at about 82 Miles distance to the N. West from London, in about 51 Degrees, 50 Minutes of Northern Latitude. Near this Place, at Lassington, on the side of a Hill, are found little Star-Stones call'd Astroites, of a greyish Colour, and curiously Graved in little Prismes, which being put into Vinegar have a Motion like other Astroites. They are to be found likewise at Pirton, somewhat lower on the Severn, at Shugbury in Warwick-shire, and at Belvoir-Castle in Leicestershire.

THE Severn, having now left Gloucester, and united its divided Streams by Newark, on the Hill, lately rebuilt by the Lord Scudamore, windeth it self about by Elmore, a Mansion House of the Geise's, whence it has a View of Prinknesh, a pleasant Seat on the side of a Hill, the Inheritance of John Bridgeman Esquire. A little lower, upon the same side, the Stroud, a pretty River, slides into Severn out of Coteswould, the Water whereof is said to have a peculiar Quality in dying Reds. It rises not far from Brimsfield, once a Place of some Repute, having an Alien-Priory, which was Cell to the Abby of St. Stephen de Fontney in Normandy, and was given by

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

by K. Edward IV. to the College at Windsor. Hence it flows on by Edgeworth, between Saperton and Pinbury Park, a fair Seat belonging to the late Sir Robert Atkins. Just below Saperton the Stroud turns short to the West, and flowing on in a streigh Current, waters and gives Name to STROUD, a Market-Town famous for Clothing. It stands on the Ascent of a Hill, and is the chief Residence of the Clothiers in these Parts, whose Trade in this County amounts to 300 000 per Annum, some making a Thousand Cloths a Year for their own Share. A little lower the Stroud receives a small Rill, from PAINSWICK, a Market-Town said to have the best and wholesomest Air in the whole County; near which, on the Hill, stood Kembsrough Castle, the Fortifications and Trenches whereof are still visible. On the other side of the Stroud stands MINCHING-HAMPTON, a Market-Town, once belonging to the Nuns of Sion, call'd by the Ancients Minchings, the Seat of Philip Sheppard, Esq. Not far from this Place is Woodchester, famous for its Tesserack-Work of Painted Beasts and Flowers, which appears in the Church-Yard. Two or Three Foot deep, in making the Graves; and STANLEY a small Market-Town, shewing the Ruines of an Ancient Priory, of which St. Leonard was the Thinner Saint; it was given by Roger de Berkely to the Abby of St. Peter in Gloucester, A. D. 1146, and was valued at the Dissolution at 126l. 8d. per Annum. Hence we must go down the Stroud to Eastington, the Seat of N. Stephens, Esq; a few Miles below which it falls into the Severn, between Longney and Framilode.

Camd.

AND now the Severn, waxing broader and deeper, hastens with frequent Turnings and Windings to Frampton, a little below which it receives the Cam. Not much lower, on the same side of the River, stands BERKELEY, a small Market-Town, having a strong Castle, tho' not so large as formerly, the Seat of the Right Honourable James Earl of Berkley, to whom it gives Title. Here it was That unhappy Prince, K. Edward II. lost his Life, and the Place where, they say, He was Murther'd is still to be seen. Berkley is reckon'd the largest Parish in the County. Just below this the little River Aven cuts its way into the Severn. It has its Rise scarce 9 Miles from the Shore near Boxwell, a small Village noted for its Wood of Box-tree, the Seat of Matthew Huntley, Esq. It had a Nunnery before the Conquest, which was destroy'd by the Danes. Hence it moves on by Alderly, seated on the Descent of a Hill, famous for being the Birth-Place of Sir Matthew Hale, Lord Chief Justice of England, who died, An. 1676. and lies here interr'd under a Tomb of Black Marble.

Mon.  
Angl.

On

On the Hills, just above this Place, are found to this Day Stones resembling Cockles and Oysters, or rather Serpentine Stones and Scallops, very curiously Figured, which whether they were first form'd in *Nautili* Shells, or the Ludicrous Fancies of Nature springing from some kind of Plastick Virtue latent in the Earth, I leave to Philosophers to enquire. A little lower the *Aven* sees *Kingswood-Abby*, which, tho' by most Writers placed in *Glocester-shire*, is really in the County of *Wilts*, under the Power of their Sheriffs and Justices, but within the Diocese of *Glocester*. This Abby was of the *Cistercian* Order, built by *William de Berkley*, A. D. 1139. to the Honour of the Blessed Virgin; but immediately after the Foundation, the Monks were remov'd to *Hasilden*, then to *Tetbury*, and at last fix'd again at *Kingswood*, An. 1170. It was endow'd at the Suppression (26 Hen. VIII.) with 244l. 11s. 2d. per Ann. Speed says 254l. 11s. 2d. They have a Charity School here of 30l. per An. for the Education of all the poor Children of the Parish in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetick, set up at the Charge of a private Gentleman. Somewhat more to the North-East is *WOTTON-Under-Edge*, a pretty Market-Town, seated on a rising Ground, famous for Cloathing. It hath a noble Free-School, erected by *Catharine Relict of Thomas Lord Berkley*, A. D. 1385. and an Alms-House, which cost a Thousand Pounds, built by *Hugh Parr* Alderman of London, An. 1632. And the like Summ was given by *Sir Jonathan Dawes*, late Sheriff of London, for the Relief of the Poor. Further North, under the Hills, lies *DURSLEY*, the ancient Possession of the *Berkley's*, another Market-Town of Note for the Cloathing Trade. Below *Kingswood* the *Aven* receives a Nameless Rill from *WICKWAR*, a small Market-Town with a Free-School, and then flows on between *Tortworth*, a Seat of *M. Lucy Moreton's*, Esq; and *Micklewood-Chase* to the *Severn*: Which leads us next to *Oldbury*, the *Trajectus of Antonine*, which has a large *Campus Major* of the Roman Fortification to attest its Antiquity. Here the *Severn* takes in a small Rivulet from *THORNBURY*, a Titular Mayor-Town, where are to be seen the Foundations of a magnificent Castle, which *Edward Duke of Buckingham* design'd to erect, An. 1511. But he was Beheaded before he perfected his Design. They have here 4 small Alms-Houses, a Free-School, and Weekly Market. Below this we meet with nothing till we come to *Kingrode*, where the River

*AVON* Empties it self into the *Severn*, and parts *Glocester-shire* from *Somerset-shire*. This River at its first Entrance into this County receives the *Boyd*, a small Brook coming down from between *Pucklechurch*, anciently a Royal Vill, now

## GLOUCESTER-SHIRE.

9

now the Seat of the *Dennis's*, and *Derham* a little Village near which *Ceaulin* the *Saxon* in a bloody Engagement slew Three of the *British* Princes, where are yet to be seen huge Ram-pires and Trenches. It is now the Seat of *William Blathwayt*, Esq; who has built here a pretty new Fabrick. Hence the *Avon* passes under *Kanesham* Bridge, and sees on the North *Kingswood-Forest*, which was formerly of much larger Extent, but is now drawn within the bounds of 5000 Acres, consisting chiefly of Coal-Mines; within it are Two fine Seats, *Barr's-Court*, in *Bitton* Parish, belonging to Sir *John Newton*, Baronet; and *Sifson-House* to *Samuel Trotman*, Esquire. Some-what lower, upon this River, is seated that Stately, Rich, and Populous City

BRISTOL, part in this County, and part in *Somersetshire*, but belongs to neither, having distinct Magistrates of its own, and being a County incorporate by it self. It is a City so well furnish'd with the Necessities of Life, and so Populous, that next to *London* and *York* it may justly claim a Pre-eminence over all the Cities in *Britain*. It stands upon a pretty high Ground, between the *Avon* and the little River *Frome*, and was formerly inclos'd with a double Wall. It has a fine Harbour, which brings Vessels under Sail into the Heart of the City, and the Citizens themselves drive a rich Trade throughout *Europe*, and make Voyages to the remotest parts of *America*. *Radcliff*, on the South, is join'd to the rest of the City by a Stone-Bridge, set with Houses on both sides. It is eminent for its *Goutes*, or Subterraneous Vaults, to carry off, and wash away the Filth, by reason of which they draw all Carriages on Sledges, for fear the shaking of Cartwheels should loosen these Arches. It is dignified with an Episcopal See, adorn'd with many fine Houses, and beautified with 18 neat Churches, besides its Cathedral, which is dedicated to *St. Austin*, and stands on the Top of the Hill, where *K. Henry VIII.* founded a Chapter of a Dean and 6 Prebendaries. *St. Mary's of Radcliff*, without the Walls, is a Building of exquisite Workmanship, having its Roof artificially Vaulted with Stone, and a lofty Tower founded by *William Cannings*, who was Five Times Mayor of the City, and a stately Ascent to it, by a great many Stairs. *St. Stephen's* too is remarkable for its stately Tower of curious Workmanship. It has several Hospitals built in all parts of it for the Poor, particularly one for *Orphans*, founded by , a wealthy Citizen, in the place where the Collegiate Church of *Gaunt's* formerly stood. Most of its late Benefactions are owing to the Munificence of *Edward Colston*, Esq. The *Frome*, after it has pass'd the Walls, runs calmly

calmly into the *Avon*, making a quiet Station for Ships, and a Creek convenient to load and unload Wares, which they call the *Key*. Between the Confluence of the Two Rivers, is a Champain Ground, call'd the *Marsh*, of late beautified with fine Buildings. This City is govern'd by a Mayor, a Court of Aldermen, 2 Sheriffs, and other inferiour Officers, is famous for its Fairs on the 2 Festivals of St. Paul and St. James, and lies at about 30 Miles distance to the South-West from *Glocester*, and 94 West of *London*, Longitude 16 Degrees, Latitude 51 Degrees and 30 Minutes.

THE River *Frome* has its Rise not far from CHIPPING-SODBURY, a Market-Town below the Hills, having a Free-School; whence it winds about to *Aeton*, anciently a Seat of the *Poyntz*'s, a little below which it receives a small Brook from *Cromhall*, where was lately discover'd a Chequer'd Pavement, about 15 Foot and a half in Breadth, and 18 and a half in Length, compos'd of White, Red, Blew, and Dark-coloured Cubical Stones, alternately varied, set together with a strong Cement, and, by the Skill of the Workman, form'd into a very curious Order and Regularity. Next, the *Frome* leads us to *Stoke*, the Seat of *John Berkley*, Esq; and so on by *Stapleton* into the *Avon*: Which before it enters the *Severn*, furnishes *Bristol* with a Dish, perhaps not to be met with elsewhere, call'd *Evers*, for some time in the Spring this River is yearly cover'd over, and colour'd Black with Millions of little Eels, scarce so big as a Goose-quill, which with small Nets they skim up in great Numbers, make into little Cakes, Fry, and Eat. From *Bristol* the *Avon* runs between high Rocks; that on the East-side is call'd *St. Vincent's*, on the top of which are found plenty of Diamonds, commonly call'd *Bristol-Stones*, which, for their Transparency, may vye with those from the Indies. At the bottom of this Rock is a hot Medicinal Well, the Water of which is much commended for Ulcers, and calculous Affections of the Reins, being taken inwardly. The other Rock on the West-side also yields Diamonds contain'd in hollow reddish Flints. The *Avon*, after it has pass'd by these craggy Rocks, is met by the *Trin*, which is now dwindle'd into a small Brook, and waters *Henbury*, where is a Camp with Three Rampires and Trenches, suppos'd to be some *British* Works; and *Westbury*, where was once a famous College, consisting of a Dean and 5 Prebendaries, founded by the Bishop of *Worcester*, An. 1443. or, as some say, by *William Mon. Cannings*, Mayor of *Bristol*, which was endow'd at the Sup-*Angl.* pression with 232*l.* 14*s.* per *Annum*. A little lower the *Avon* sees *Kingsweston*, where Sir *Robert Southwell* has a very pleasant Seat,

Seat, affording a Prospect into several Counties, just below which it is unloaded with a full Channel into the *Severn* *Affuary*.

FROM hence crossing the Country to the East, we meet with MARSHFIELD a small Market-Town, of Note for nothing but its Cakes; from whence passing along the Eastern Borders of the County, where it lies upon *Wiltshire*, we see *Bathington*, a noble Seat of his Grace *Henry Duke of Beaufort*, adorn'd with such stately Parks, pleasant Gardens, and fine Walks, that it may justly be esteem'd one of the most compleat Seats in the Kingdom. In the Fields hereabouts, which are never annoy'd by Serpents, are frequently found Cylindrical Stones, and Bullets almost as big as Canon-Balls. Next we meet with *Didmerton*, the Seat of the *Codrington's*; and *Leighterton*, near which is a large Barrow, or Honorary Tomb, which probably was thrown up immediately after the Battle fought at *Sherston*, between King *Edmond* and the *Danes*, A. D. 1016. From hence the Borders wind about by *Shipton*, the Seat of *Walter Estcourt*, and *Estcourt Hedges*, Esq; and the Birth-place of the ingenious Mr. *John Oldham*, the Poet. More North upon the very Edge of the County, stands TETBURY, pleasantly seated on a rising Ground, and in a healthy Air. It is a handsome and well-frequented Town, having a Free-School, and an Alms-House, by the Bounty of Sir *Will. Romney*, a Native of the Place. Its Market for Yarn, Cheese, and Bacon, &c. is esteem'd one of the best in these Parts. It belong'd formerly to the *Berkley's*, but they sold their Right, with the perpetual Advowson of the Church, to the Inhabitants, who now enjoy the Tolls and Profits of the Markets and Fairs. It was once fortified with a Castle, said to have been built by *Dunvallo Mulmutius King of the Britains*, Eleg. *Hist.* about 2000 Years ago, which is now so entirely demolish'd that the Ruines of it are scarce visible. On the North-side of the Town is a Spring, whose Water, within 40 Paces of its Head, is of such a petrifying Quality, that it turns Sticks and Shells into Stone, or at least crusts them over with a hard stony Substance. Not far from Tetbury, to the North-West, stands *Beverstone-Castle* in the Possession of Sir *Harry Hickes*, Baronet, and *Kingscote*, the Seat of *William Kingscote*, Esquire. This Place hath been the Residence of that ancient Family ever since the Conquest, and was probably once a Roman Station; for, some Years ago, in a Field adjoining, were thrown up with the Plough a multitude of *Roman Coins*, a large Statue of Stone, and a *Fibula Vestiaria* of Silver, Chequer'd and Enamel'd. From Tetbury the Borders wind about by *Culkerson* and *Rodmerton*, and cross the *Churn* at *Sarney*, not far

far from Dryfield, the Seat of Sir George Hanger, and then leads us to Kempford, a Seat of the Lord Weymouth's, where meeting with the Thames it follows the Course of that River to Lechlade, a small Market-Town, standing on the Confines of Berks- and Oxford-shire.

THE more Eastern Part of this County, swelling with rising Hills, is call'd Coteswold, feeding large Flocks of Sheep with a White Wooll, and Fine Fleece. It is watered by the Rivers Churn, Coln, Leche, and Windrush. The Churn rises out of Birdlip-Hills, and after it has watered Randomb, the Seat of Sir John Guise, Baronet, hastens to CIRENCESTER, a Market-Town of great Antiquity; it has been a famous City, and was known to *Antoninus* by the Name of *Durocornovium*; now scarce the fourth part within the Walls is Inhabited. The Roman Coins, Chequer'd Pavements, and Inscriptions in Marble here dug up, evidently prove its Antiquity. Here was a College of Prebendaries before the Conquest, and an Abby of Black-Canons founded by K. Henry I. A.D. 1117. and dedicated to St. Mary and St. James, which was valued at the Dissolution at 103 l. 7s. 1d. ob. per An. They have had Three Parochial Churches, viz. St. Cecilia's, St. Laurence, and St. John's, a very fair one, the present Parish Church, having in it 5 Chapels. Aveling, Aunt to Thomas Rushall, Bishop of Durham, a Native of this Place, gave 100l. to the building of the goodly Porch. In this Town are Two fair Seats, the one belonging to the Lord Bathurst, the other to Thomas Masters, Esq. On the West-side of the Town is a place call'd Grismund's Tower, where Men's Bones of an unusual Size have been found. There were some Years ago dug up in the Town large Vaults of Brick, which are supposed to have been made by the Romans for Baths.

THE River Coln has its Rise near Whittington, and thence slides on by Compton, the Seat of Sir Richard How, Baronet, to Stowell the Seat of the Honourable John How, Esquire, and so down by Bybury to Quennington, where was once a Preceptory of the Knights Templars, founded by Agnes Lacy, William of Poitou, and the Countess Cecilia, A. D. ---- valued at 137 l. 7s. 1d. ob. per Annum. Next the Coln visits FAIRFORD, a small Market-Town beautified with a fine Church, built by John Tame, Esquire. A little below Fairford the Coln joyns the Thames, which rises near the South-East Border of this County, in the Road betwixt Cirencester and Tetbury, hard by the famous Fosse-Way, and then brings us to LECHLADE, another Market-Town, standing on the Confluence of the Thames, Coln, and Leche, where was formerly

merly a Priory of Black-Canons of the Duke of *Clermont's* Patronage. The *Leche*, near its Head, waters and gives *Lel.* Name to NORTHLECHE, a Market-Town, with a neat Church, and a good Grammar-School, founded by *Hugh Westwood*, Esquire, who, as its commonly Reported, came afterwards to be low in the World, and desiring to be Master of his own School was deny'd that Favour by the Trustees. Near Northleche, at a Village call'd *Farmington*, is an exceeding large Roman Camp, named *Norbury*, 850 Paces Long, and 473 Broad, now a Corn-field; and not far thence is *Sherborn*, the Seat of Sir *Ralph Dutton*. At Northleche we meet with that famous Roman Highway, call'd the *Fosse*, which out of *Warwickshire* enters this County by *Lemington*, and thence goes by *MORETON-Henmarsh*, a small Market-Town on the River *Evenlode*, and so on in a streight Line to *STOW on the Wold*, another Market-Town, having a Free-School, an Alms-House, and a multitude of Poor; thence it leads us by *Slaughter*, over the *Windrush* to Northleche, crosses the *Coln* at *Wynston*, and so brings us to *Cirencester*, a few Miles below which it leaves this County, and holds a streight Course into *Wiltshire*, and so towards *Bath*.

NOT far from *Lemington* where this *Consular Way* enters *Glocester-shire*, we see *CAMPDEN* under the side of the Hills, a Market-Town famous for Stockings, having an Alms-House built by *Sir Baptist Hickes*, to whom it gave the Title of Viscount, who lies buried in the South-Isle of the Church, which is adorn'd with such Noble Monuments of Marble as equal, if not exceed, most in *England*; He gave in his Life *CAMD.* time 10 000*l.* to Charitable Uses, as his Epitaph mentions. The Honourable *James Thynne*, Esquire, deceased, Erected and Endowed a Charity-School here, wherein 30 Poor Girls are taught to Read, Knit and Spin. On the North Borders of the County we meet with *Bekford*, anciently a Religious House, Cell to the Abby of *St. Martin*, and *St. Barbara*, in *Normandy*, given by King *Henry VI.* after the dissolution of *Mon.* the *Alien-Priories* to *Eaton-College*; and *Dumbleton*, the Seat *Angl.* of *Sir Richard Cox*; with *Toddington*, which shows a stately House of the old Lord *Tracy's*. More to the South is *Hale's Abby*, of which there are now but small Remains, only a neat Cloyster; It was founded by *Richard Earl of Cornwall* and King of the *Romans*, A.D. 1246. for 20 Cistercian Monks. It was dedicated to *St. Mary* and *All-Saints*, and valued 26 *Henry VIII.* at 35*l. 7s. 8d. ob. per Annum*. Near to *Hales* stands *Sewdley*, a Seat of the Lord *Chandos's*, which had once *Mon.* a beautiful Castle, and a neat Church, both ruin'd in the *Angl.* Civil

Civil Wars, and WINCHCOMBE, once a populous Town, where King Offa, A. D. 787 built a Nunnery, and about Ten Years after King Kenwulf laid the Foundation of a stately Abby for 300 Black Monks, and commended it to the Parroge of St. Mary and St. Kenelm. In succeeding Times it became a College of Seculars, but Oswald Bishop of Worcester A. D. 985. restored again the Benedictines. It was endowid at the Suppression with 759*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* per Annum. *[Mon. Engl.]*

## *A TABLE of all the Market Towns in GLOUCESTER-SHIRE, with the Days of the Week on which their Markets are kept.*

Berkley,	Tuesday.	Newent,	Friday.
*BRISTOL, W. and Sat.		Newnham,	Friday.
Campden,	Wednesday.	Northleche.	
Cheltenham,	Thursday.	Painswick,	Tuesday.
Cirencester,	M. and Friday.	Sodbury,	Thursday.
Colford.		Stanley,	Saturday.
Deans	Monday.	Stow,	Thursday.
Dursley,	Thursday.	Stroud,	Friday.
Fairford,	Thursday.	Tetbury,	Wednesday.
GLOUCESTER, W. and Sat.		Tewksbury,	Saturday.
Hampton,	Tuesday.	Thornbury,	Saturday.
Lechlade,	Tuesday.	Wickwar,	Monday.
Marshfield,	Tuesday.	Winchcomb,	Saturday.
Moreton.		Wotton,	Friday.

## FAIRS

## FAIRS in GLOUCESTER-SHIRE.

- A**cton, April 14. and September 2d.  
Berkley, May 3d.  
Bisley, April 23d, and November 1st.  
Blakeney, May 1st, and November 1st.  
**B R I S T O L**, January 25th, and July 25th.  
Campden, July 25th, and Ash-Wednesday,  
Cheltenham, July 25th, and Holy Thursday.  
Cirencester, July 7th, October 28th, and Easter Tuesday.  
Colford, June 9th, and November 24th.  
Cowley, August 24th.  
Cromhall, Nov. 30th.  
Dean, September 29th. and Easter Monday.  
Deorhirst, May 3d, and September 14th.  
Dursley, April 25th, and November 23d.  
Fairford, May 3d, July 28th, and November 1st.  
Frampton upon Severn, February 3d.  
**GLOUCESTER**, March 25th, June 24th, Sept. 17, and Nov. 17th.  
Hampton, October 18th, and Trinity Monday.  
Lechelade, August 10th:  
Marshfield, October 13th.  
Newnham, June 11th, and October 18th.  
Northleche, June 29th.  
Newent Aug. 1st. Wed. before Easter and Wed. before Whitsunday.  
Newport, July 7th, and September 21st.  
Painswick, September 8th, and Whit-Tuesday.  
Sall, July 25th.  
St. John's-Bridge, August 29th.  
Sodbury, June 24th, and Holy-Thursday:  
Stanley, Saturday after St. Swithin's Day.  
Stonehouse, April 20th, and September 29th.  
Stow, May 1st, and October 13th.  
Stroud, May 1st, and August 10th.  
Tetbury, Ash-Wednesday, and July 22d.  
Tewksbury, Feb. 24, May 3d, June 11th, Aug. 24th, and Sept. 29:  
Thornbury, Aug. 15, Easter-M. and M. before St. Thomas-Day.  
Tockington, May 9th, and December 6th.  
Westerly, September 8th.  
Wickwar, March 25th, and July 2d.  
Winchcomb, April 25th, and July 17th.  
Winterborn, June 29th, and October 18th.  
Wotton, September 14th.

Note. Gloucester-shire was anciently Possess'd by a People call'd the Dobuni; and during the Saxon Heptarchy it became a Part of the Kingdom of Mercia.

F I N I S.

MVSEVM  
BRITANICVM